THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Delhi Financial Corporation (DFC) has reported that it has various schemes for financial assistance to small scale and medium scale industrial concerns. There are general schemes for providing term loan to small scale units and medium scale units, hospitals, tourism related activities, hotels, ice and cold storages, small hotels and restaurants. There are schemes for special categories, schemes for specific purposes, schemes for weaker sections of society, the Single Window Scheme for tiny and small units, non-project financial assistance, schemes for marketing support to small, cottage and village industries and the equipments/vehicle lease financing scheme. The details of the schemes are publically available in the brochures brought out by DFC.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Corporation has recently introduced the Equipment/ Vehicle Lease Financing Scheme for lease financing of equipment as well as transport vehicles. All existing and financially viable small scale and medium scale industrial units located in the Union Territory of Delhi or Chandigarh and preferably registered with the Commissioner of Industries, Delhi or Chandigarh or DGTD are eligible for availing assistance under the scheme. Further, the minimum limit of financing is Rs.1 lakh and the maximum is of Rs. 90 lakhs. In addition to execution of lease agreement/bond, the lessee shall also furnish third party guarantee/ colateral security acceptable to the Corporation as per its norms.

(d) DFC has reported that the ceiling in respect of the Single Window Scheme was revised upward and the scheme now covers new, tiny and SSI units whose project cost does not exceed Rs. 20 lakhs and whose working capital requirement is upto Rs.10 lakhs. Another scheme has been added for qualified professionals in the field of management, accountancy, medicine, architecture, engineering etc. for setting up for the first time their professional practice or consultancy ventures and also, to a limited extent for the existing established professional firms. The Capital outlay of each such project should not exceed Rs.10.00 lakhs.

Request for Import of Cameras at Concessional Rate of Duty

3416. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the Punjab Photographers Association (Regd.) Jallandhar and Members of Parliament, recently requesting Government to allow photographers to import still cameras and video cameras on concessional custom duty as has been done in the case of Film Industry.

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A letter dated 7.2.1992 has been received from Shri Bekal Utsahi, Hon'ble M.P. enclosing therewith copies of representations dated 30.1.92 and 19.12.91 addressed to the Finance Minister from Punjab Photographers' Association (Regd.), Jallandhar for permitting import of video cameras and equipments at concessional duty rates at par with Cine, TV and Press Industry.

(c) In the budget for 1992-93, as part of the reduction in the peak rates of import duty, the maximum of basic plus auxiliary rates of import duties on video cameras and equipments has been brought down to 110%.

Refinance to Regional Rural Bank's Sponsored by United Bank of India

3417. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sponsoring banks are required to provide refinance to the Regional Rural Banks sponsored by them to carry on its activities;

(b) if so, what are the shortfalls in extending needed refinance by the United Bank of India to the concerned Regional Rural Banks till the end of March, 1991; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Nadia Gramin Bank did not receive any refinance from the United Bank of India

during the years 1989 and 1990, and that no limit has been sanctioned to it since 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The recommended proportions for providing refinance to the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) amongst sponsor banks, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and RRBs own involvement are as under:

	Short term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations)	Short terms (Non-Seasonal Agricultural Operations)	Medium term Non-schematic
Sponsor Bank	20	20	20
NABARD	50	50	60
RRBs own involvement	30	30	20

The sponsor banks are not to contribute refinance assistance for schematic purposes where NABARD provides refinance at varying rates and the balance is met by RRBs own resources. The bulk of the loaning by RRBs falls under schematic refinance.

(b) The sponsor bank provides refinance as per the stipulated norms provided the RRBs fulfil eligibility criteria for availment of refinance facility based on recovery percentage in the previous year. RRBs sponsored by the United Bank of India were provided with refinance facility as per their drawal application upto March, 1991 and there were no pending cases.

(c) The sponsor bank has reported that Nadia Gramin Bank had applied for short-term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) limit of Rs. 60 lakhs and Medium-term (Non-schematic) limit of Rs. 25 lakhs for the year July 1990-June, 1991. The appraisal of refinance proposal revealed that Nadia Gramin Bank had excess of refinance funds to the tune of Rs. 257 lakhs based on their available resources and scale of lending operations. However, in the year 1986 Rs. 20 lakhs as refinance was sanctioned by the sponsor bank to the Gramin Bank and Rs. 26 lakhs was sanctioned in the year 1987.

Closure of Regional Rural Banks

3418. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down branches of Regional Rural Banks which are not earning profits; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that UCO Bank has, instructed the Regional Rural Banks sponsored by it to identify unviable branches and arrange for their winding up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration to close down the branches of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the country. However, pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Financial System (Narasimham Committee), the reorganisation of rural credit delivery system including restructuring of RRBs would be considered.

(b) UCO Bank has reported that while it has instructed the RRBs sponsored by it to identify unviable branches for taking corrective measures, it has not issued any instructions for winding up such branches.

Insurance Policy for Proving Social Security

3419. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation dated 19.12.1991 from Policy Holders Servicing and Research Institute, Calcutta, has been received by his Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the said representation deals with a unique insurance policy providing complete social security to the people;

(c) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) A copy of the press release dated 21st November, 1991 regarding complete social security by way of free life insurance cover to the total population that puts no load on the Govt. Exchequer but instead boosts up